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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,631	07/27/2001	Toshio Hosogai	0815-4001	9472

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EXAMINER

HOEY, ALISSA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3765

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/916,631

Applicant(s)

HOSOGAI, TOSHIO

Examiner

Alissa L. Hoey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because on page 5, line 15 should "sipper" read "zipper"? Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the terms "inside" and "outside" should appear without quotation marks, since quotation marks are not acceptable punctuation in claims. Further, is "inside" and "outside" supposed to mean obverse and reverse? "...fly cover is symmetric weather formed "inside" or "outside"" is unclear. Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: in item b it is unclear what is meant by the second panel being "similarly prepared". What is it similarly prepared to? Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: in item d, it is unclear what "a similar attachment seam" is similar to? Appropriate correction is required.
5. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: should "extended" read "extending", since claim 6 is a method step in the present tense? Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 5 and 6 are indicated as allowable subject matter, however claims 5 and 6 are objected to above. Applicant's reply must either comply with all formal

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requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

7. The indicated allowability of claim 1 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Siegel. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Siegel (US 2,176,229).

In regard to claim 1, Siegel provides a zipper (21) having a first zipper flap (19) opposite a second zipper flap (17). The pant of Siegel (10) is capable of being reversed to expose the inside of the pant including the zipper construction to an onlooker. The first panel (12) connected to the first zipper flap and attached by a finished seam (20) and a second panel (11) connected to the second zipper flap (17) and attached by a finished seam (16). An inner fly cover flap (27) formed by attaching the first zipper flap (19) to the first panel (12) by a first fly cover finished seam (20) and an outer fly cover flap (23) formed by attaching the second zipper flap (17) to the second panel (11) by a

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second fly cover finish seam (26). The zipper fly cover is symmetric whether viewed in the obverse or the reverse (see figure 3).

Conclusion

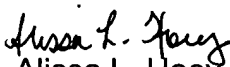
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sweeney, Berlin et al., Ruelle et al., Abraham, Metzler, Norvell, Ohara, Rindle, Chang, Blanks and Hosogai are all cited to show closely related garment zippers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (703) 308-6094. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (703) 305-1025. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Alissa L. Hoey
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